

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BRIDGE 01633 281932Z

64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-11

LAB-06 SIL-01 NIC-01 OPR-02 DRC-01 /179 W

----- 104009

R 271953Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6409

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 1633

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT

SUBJ: GAIRY YIELDS TO PROTESTERS' DEMANDS

REF: BRIDGETOWN 1606

SUMMARY: IN FACE OF MOUNTING PROTESTS IN GRENADA, PREMIER ERIC GAIRY ANNOUNCED IN RADIO BROADCAST NOVEMBER 24 HIS INTENTION TO DISBAND "SECRET POLICE" APPARATUS AND TO APPOINT JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS OF POLICE BRUTALITY. END SUMMARY.

1. GOVERNMENT OF PREMIER ERIC M. GAIRY LAST WEEK FACED RISING TIDE OF PROTEST OVER ALLEGATIONS OF POLICE BRUTALITY IN ARREST OF SIX MEMBERS OF RADICAL OPPOSITION NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT NOVEMBER 18. ARRESTS FOLLOWED RALLY IN TOWN OF GRENVILLE AT WHICH NJM LEADERS CALLED FOR GENERAL STRIKE TO BRING DOWN GAIRY GOVERNMENT. THREE NJM LEADERS (MAURICE BISHOP, UNISON WHITEMAN AND SELWYN STRACHAN) WERE BADLY BEATEN DURING ARREST AND REMAIN HOSPITALIZED WITH INJURIES DESCRIBED IN GRENADA PRESS AS SERIOUS. ALL SIX WERE REPORTEDLY DETAINED AT GRENADA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BRIDGE 01633 281932Z

JAIL SUNDAY NIGHT AND INJURED WERE NOT TRANSFERRED TO HOSPITAL

UNTIL MONDAY MORNING. DEFENDANTS WERE ARRAIGNED IN GRENADA MAGISTRATE'S (LOWER) COURT NOVEMBER 19 ON CHARGE OF POSSESSING POLICE RIFLE AND AMMUNITION AND REFUSED BAIL. HIGH COURT LATER THAT DAY REVERSED RULING AND GRANTED BAIL OF EC\$1,000 EACH. ACCORDING TO BARBADOS ADVOCATE-NEWS, ACCUSED WERE THEN RE-ARRESTED ON SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT CHARGE ("POSSESSION OF FIREARMS THE PROPERTY OF THE GRENADA GOVERNMENT"). LOWER COURT AGAIN REFUSED BAIL BUT HIGH COURT REVERSED DECISION ON THURSDAY AND SET BAIL ON NEW CHARGE AT EC\$800 EACH. ON NOVEMBER 21 MEMBERS OF GRENADA LAW SOCIETY (BAR ASSOCIATION) PUBLISHED RESOLUTION CONDEMNING POLICE BRUTALITY, DEFENDANTS' DENIAL OF RIGHT TO LEGAL COUNSEL, AND MAGISTRATE'S FAILURE TO ALLOW BAIL. (AMONG THOSE LISTED AS HAVING PARTICIPATED IN THE DRAFTING OF THE RESOLUTION WAS DEREK KNIGHT, MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO IN THE GAIRY GOVERNMENT.)

2. MEANWHILE, OPPOSITION PROTESTS HAVE BEEN FUELED BY REPORTS OF OTHER POLICE ACTIONS. POLICE HAVE REPORTEDLY CONTINUED TO SEARCH RESIDENCES AND BUSINESSES OF PERSONS SUSPECTED OF SUPPORTING NJM. ON NOVEMBER 21 POLICE CLAIM TO HAVE UNCOVERED "LARGE QUANTITY" OF MOLOTOV COCKTAILS AND REVOLUTIONARY LITERATURE ON WINDSOR ESTATE IN ST. ANDREW'S PARRISH. THEY ALSO REPORTED FINDING AMMUNITION AND OTHER "MILITARY" EQUIPMENT IN CAR IN THE COASTAL TOWN OF GOUYAVE AND ARRESTING THREE OF FIVE OCCUPANTS OF THE CAR. THE OPPOSITION GRENADA "TORCHLIGHT" REPORTED THAT POLICE HAVE HELD TOWN OF GRENVILLE IN VIRTUAL STATE OF SEIGE SINCE NJM RALLY. BARRISTER MICHAEL SYLVESTER, ONE OF COUNSELS FOR ACCUSED, WAS REPORTEDLY ASSAULTED BY PLAIN-CLOTHES POLICE WHO STOPPED AND SEARCHED HIS CAR. THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS UNCONFIRMED REPORTS FROM GRENADA ALLEGING QUESTIONABLE POLICE ACTIVITIES RANGING FROM HARRASSMENT OF MOTORISTS TO ASSAULT.

3. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, GENERAL STRIKE CALLED FOR BY NJM FAILED TO MATERIALIZE NOVEMBER 19 AND 20, THOUGH SOME SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS BOYCOTTED CLASSES AND A FEW COMMERCIAL EMPLOYEES DID NOT REPORT FOR WORK, ALLEGEDLY BECAUSE THEY FEARED POSSIBLE UNREST OR POLICE HARRASSMENT. BY NOVEMBER 21, HOWEVER, MOST STORES AND BUSINESSES IN THE CAPITAL OF ST. GEORGE'S AND OTHER PARTS OF ISLAND HAD REPORTEDLY CLOSED AND HAD NOT BEEN REOPENED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BRIDGE 01633 281932Z

BY THE WEEKEND. ON NOVEMBER 20, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ADOPTED RESOLUTION CONDEMNING "INDISCRIMINATE USE OF POLICE FORCE AND BRUTALITY" AND CALLING UPON GAIRY TO DISBAND AND DISARM SO-CALLED "SECRET POLICE" AND TO APPOINT BY NOVEMBER 30 A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY "COMPRISED OF SUITABLY QUALIFIED PERSONS FROM OUTSIDE THE STATE" TO INVESTIGATE POLICE OPERATIONS AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE. HOWEVER, CHAMBER'S APPEAL FOR A RETURN TO NORMALCY PENDING GAIRY'S RESPONSE TO ITS DEMANDS WENT UNHEEDED BY BOTH

MERCHANTS AND EMPLOYEES. ON NOVEMBER 21 FOUR MEMBERS OF GRENADA CLERGY, REPRESENTING CATHOLIC, ANGLICAN, METHODIST AND PRESBYTERIAN FAITHS, PRESENTED GAIRY WITH SIMILAR RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CHAMBER'S DEMANDS. ACCORDING TO ADVOCATE-NEWS, PORT WORKERS FROM SEAMAN AND WATERFRONTS WORKERS' UNION WALKED OFF JOB NOVEMBER 21 AND LATER REFUSED TO WORK AFTER 6:00 P.M. BECAUSE THEY CLAIMED STREETS WERE NOT SAFE AFTER DARK. ON THURSDAY SECONDARY SCHOOLTEACHERS ANNOUNCED THEY WOULD NOT WORK FOR REMAINDER OF WEEK, AND CABLE AND WIRELESS STAGED A "SICK-OUT" LEAVING ONLY A SKELETON STAFF. ACCORDING TO SOURCES IN GRENADA, GASOLINE STATIONS WERE CLOSED FRIDAY, BUT ESSENTIAL SERVICES (WATER, ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONE) HAVE NOT BEEN AFFECTED, AS THEY WERE DURING ANTI-INDEPENDENCE DEMONSTRATIONS IN MAY, AND SOME FOOD STORES REMAINED OPEN. AIRLINE SERVICE TO AND FROM GRENADA HAS APPARENTLY NOT BEEN AFFECTED.

4. IN THE FACE OF GROWING CRITICISM, WORK STOPPAGES AND BUSINESS CLOSURES, PREMIER GAIRY WENT ON RADIO AT 8:00 P.M. NOVEMBER 23 TO ANNOUNCE THAT HE WOULD YIELD TO DEMANDS THAT HE DISBAND "POLICE AIDS" AND APPOINT A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY COMPOSED OF "THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF JUDICIAL PERSONNEL DRAWN FROM OUTSIDE THE STATE." GAIRY ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT SIZE OF REGULAR POLICE FORCE WOULD BE INCREASED, BUT WITH INTELLIGENT YOU
E E E E E E E

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GENERAL STRIKES, POLICE FORCES, SECRET POLICE, ARRESTS, PRISONERS WELFARE, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BRIDGE01633
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731112/aaaaaige.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BRIDGETOWN 1606
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 15 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <04-Feb-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GAIRY YIELDS TO PROTESTERS' DEMANDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, BB, GJ, (GAIRY, ERIC M)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005